Digital Inclusion of Refugees in Canada

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SFIN-6009 | Problem Solving Digital Inclusion of Refugees in Canada

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01 Recap

Digital inclusion is about access to information and communication technology (ICT) and the resulting social and economic benefits.

ICT includes:

- Internet Access
- Data
- Communications Technology
- Transactions
- Hardware
- Software
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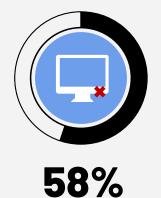
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- Cloud Computing
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A Digital World, A Digital Divide





Households do not

have enough devices

for all the members



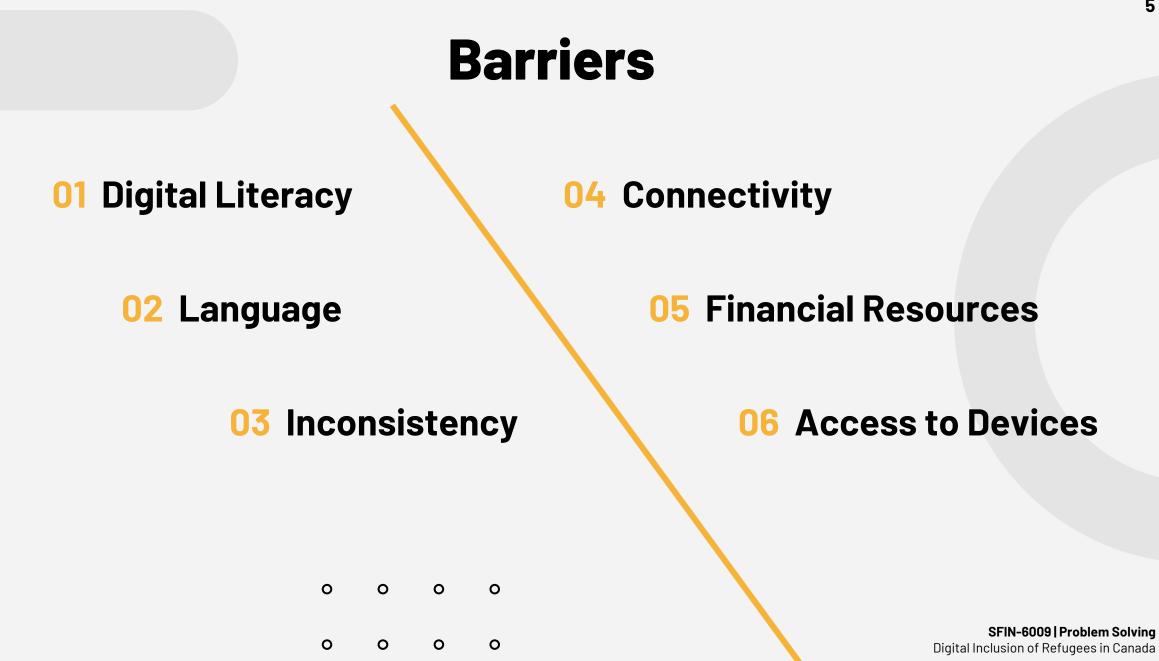
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Students and their families expected to continue schooling via remote learning 50%-60%

No reliable internet and mobile connection

Absenteeism Educational Poor Literacy Disengagement Isolation Drop-out



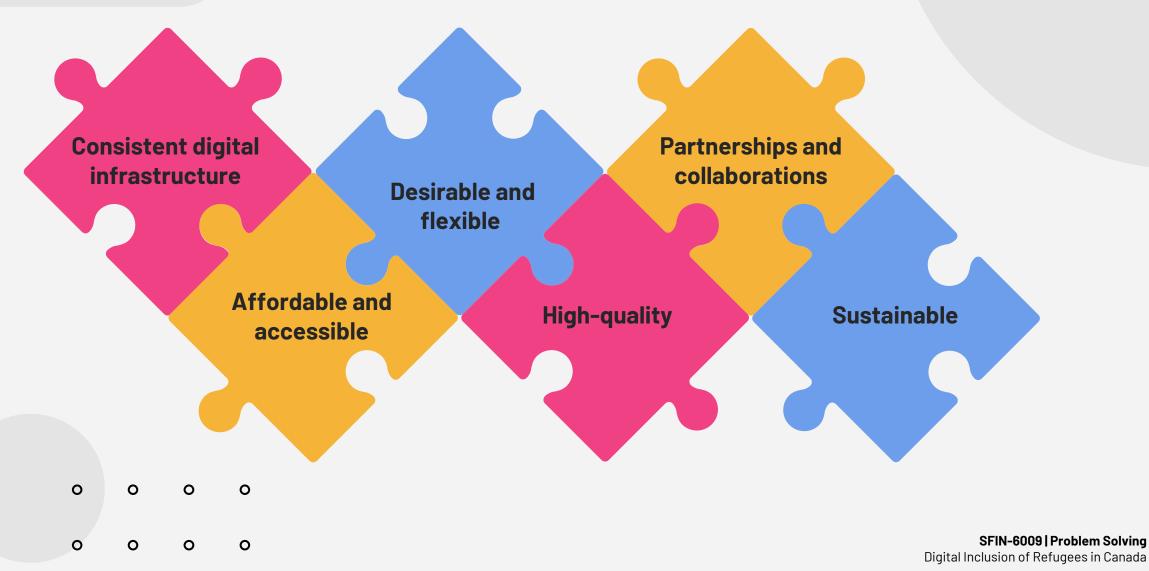


02 Problem Statement

How might ICT better serve school-aged refugee children in Canada, to help them learn, stay connected, and obtain opportunities—now and in future situations where online learning and access to in-person learning is limited.



Drivers for Solution



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Opportunity Areas

Partnership and Collaboration

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Use of shared community space to facilitate learning.



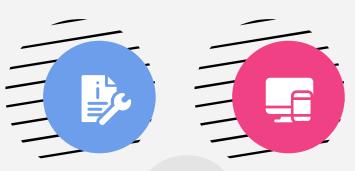
Coordination and Connectivity

Having multiple channels to connect with the students and families to create an inclusive experience.

Schools and

Teachers

Better training on the applications and platforms for use in delivering online learning.

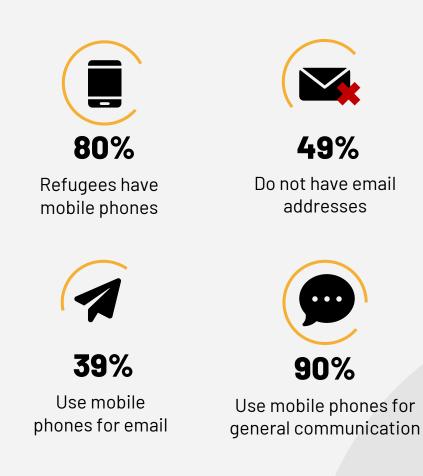


Devices

Receiving devices and instructions on how things work in Canada, before they even arrive. 8

Background for Solution

- Refugee parents often find themselves having a tough time understanding the school system
- School resources are often disseminated through websites and emails





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"Tech has done a lot of good unintentionally for refugees...WhatsApp, Facebook...without being developed specifically for refugees, these have addressed their problems..."

-Mark Hetfield, Websummit (2018)



Problem

Dissemination of school information and resources among refugee population is often limited to emails or websites. To the refugee parents, these modes of communications my feel confusing, inaccessible, and impersonal. Whereas WhatsApp, Facebook, and messenger are ICT's they are comfortable and accustomed to using.



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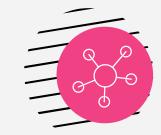
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Criteria for Solution







Use accessible technology

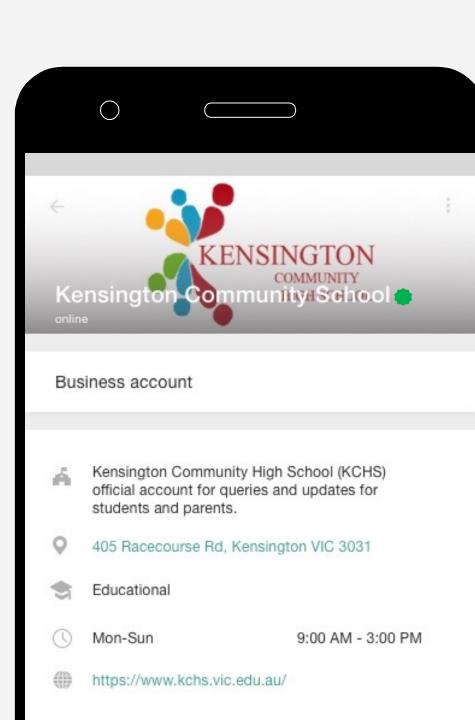
Use existing technology

Collaborate to create a custom solution



03 Proposed Solution Design





Solution

Using WhatsApp Business as an

accessible communication channel for schools to provide the refugee population with school information and resources 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Chatbot Service

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Conversational bot that can help with basic queries and feedback



- 24x7 availability
- Interactive
- Multi-lingual

Features



Additional

educational resources

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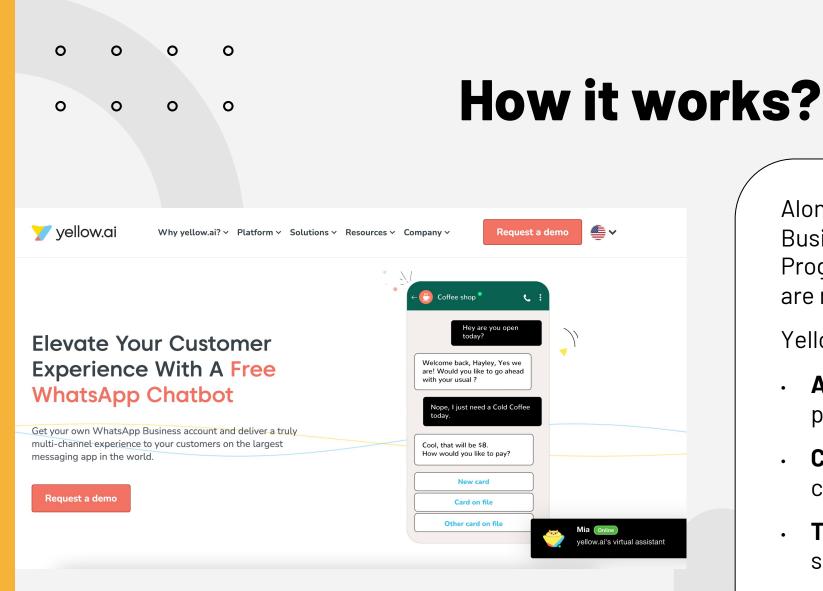
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School Updates

Get up-to-date information on schools activities



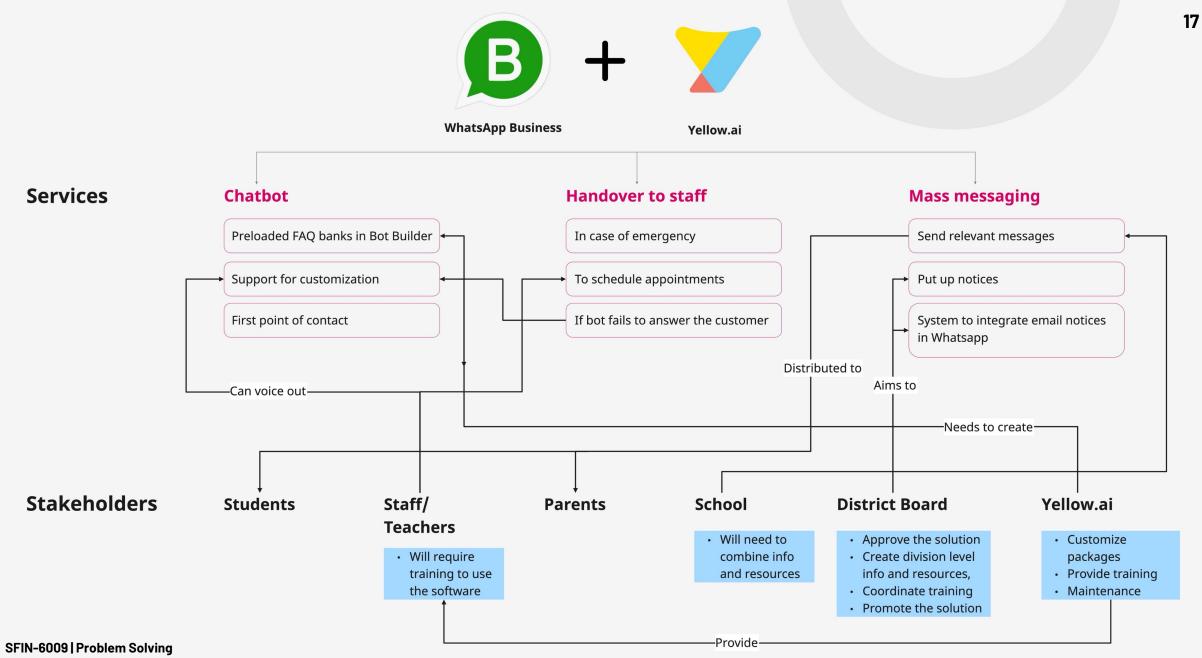
- Relevant updates
- Never miss an opportunity



Along with features of WhatsApp Business, additional Application Programming Interface (API) integrations are required to support the features.

Yellow.ai provides:

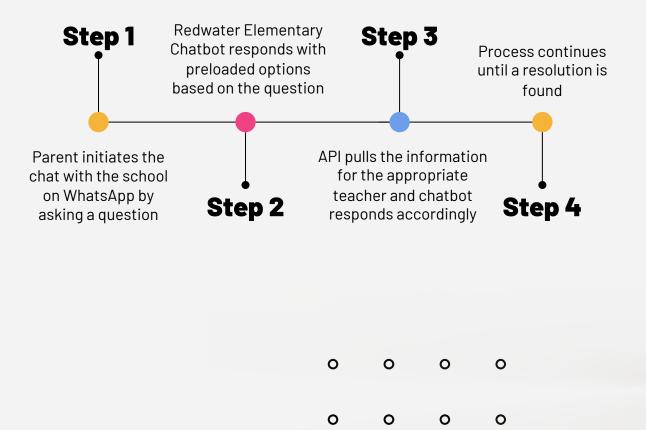
- Al chatbot for automated and personalized customer support
- Conversational AI to connect with customers in a human way
- Training to customers on using the software and building bots

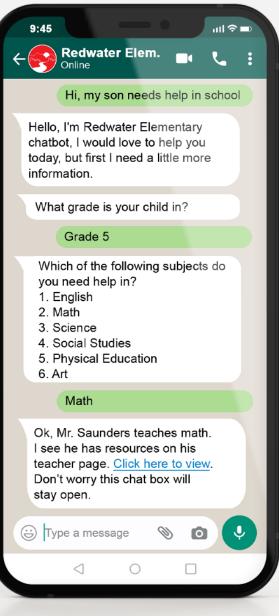


Digital Inclusion of Refugees in Canada

Prototype: Schools

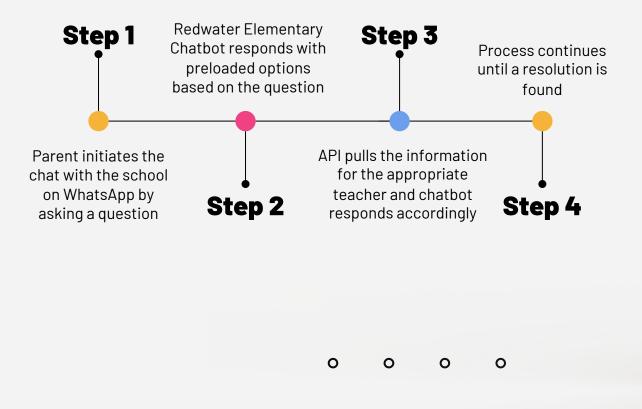
Example: A parent is looking to find help for their child who is struggling to complete math homework.





Prototype: Schools

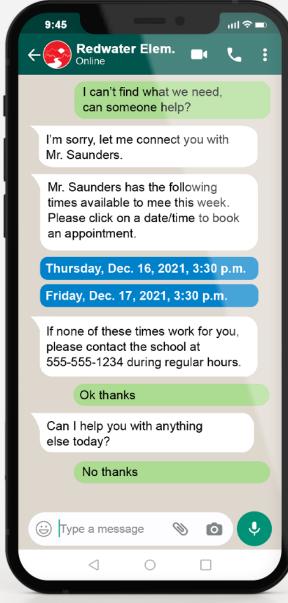
Example: A parent is looking to find help for their child who is struggling to complete math homework.

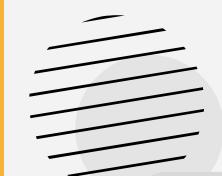


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Packages

District Basic Plan

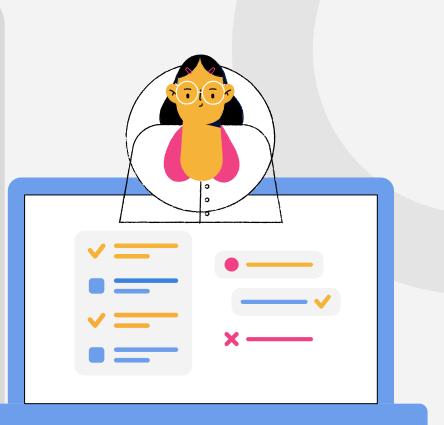
- General information about registration and busing
- Special support with language and inclusion
- District-wide dates and events

School Premium

- Information specific to schools
- Appointments with school and staff members

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- School calendar and events
- Information about curriculum and homework



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04 Human Factor



Human Factor Analysis

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		Parents	Students	Teachers/ Staff
	Motivation	Community, integration, and achievement	Access, ease, and privacy	Streamline, save time and duplication
	Culture	Adaptation and acculturation	Educational culture	Boost parent engagement
	Knowledge	Uses existing knowledge	Information processing and recall	Adopting new ICT

Motivations

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Parents

Child's Achievement Need for Affiliation



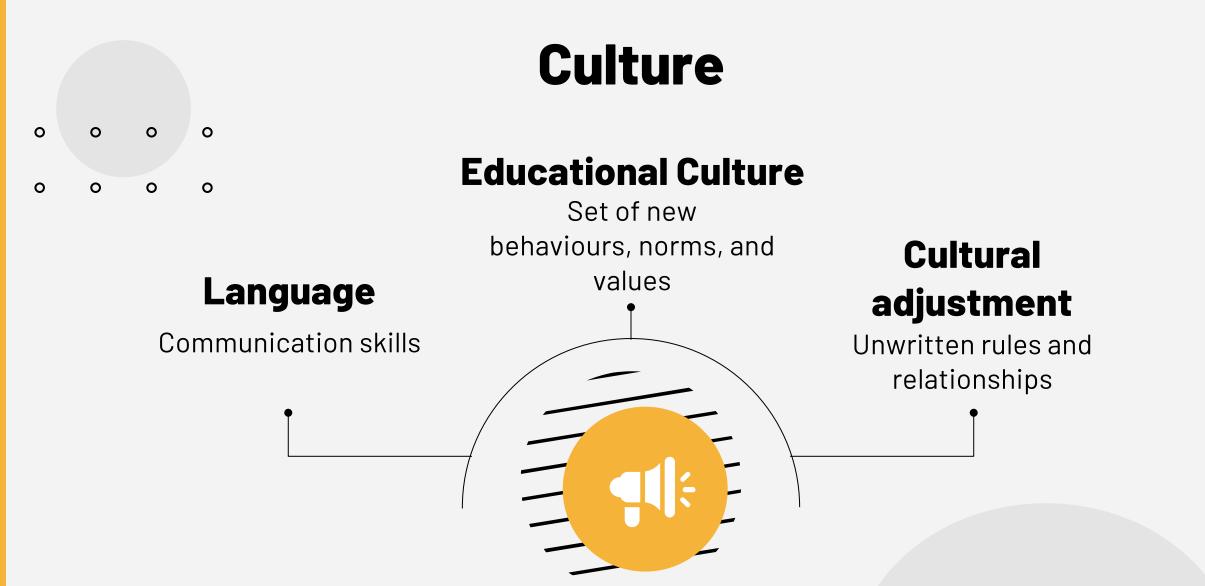
Students

New interaction opportunities Easy and fast access



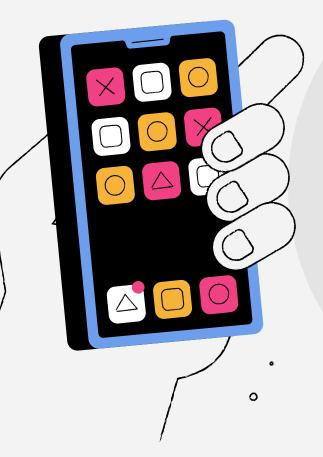
School

Intrinsic motivation from teachers Engaged audience



Knowledge

- One of their main reason to use WhatsApp as part of our solution is that there is prior knowledge from parents using the app and they are familiar with it.
- Students will have easy access to this digital information at their finger tips.
- Absorptive capacity will be seen when teachers and school staff start adopting to the new ICTs.



05 Business Context





Key PartnersSchool staffDistrict school boardDesigners and developersAPI Company	Key Activities Provide access to tailored information for refugee parents and their children about school and school activities Key Resources WhatsApp for Business Third party API company Training materials School and District Board's information databases	Value Proposition Teachers/Staff Customized used information to en- current channel communication Parents Increasing accel school and provision- to-use channel Students Convenient accel resources	f e of existing enhance ls of essibility to riding an easy-	Customer RelationshipsLong termPersonal assistanceAutomated serviceChannelsInternet enableddigital devicesCell phones	Customer Segments Feachers/Staff Parents Students 	
Cost Structure Start up and setup			Revenue Streams /// Subscription fees/ Brokerage Fees			
Running business maintenance			Funding			
Addition of new features			District Board			
Training			Provincial Government			

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Value Proposition Canvas – Teachers/Staff

Products and Services

• WhatsApp + API easily communicate with parents and schedule appointments

- Gain Creators
 - Information and activities can be quickly and easily spread via messages
 - Teachers meet parents 'where they are', through an existing and well understood ICT channel currently have, no need to create new apps

Gains

- Give personalized attention to students
- Increase participation among students
- Create activities for students

Customer Job(s)

 Streamline the communication process and meet parents and guardians at touchpoints

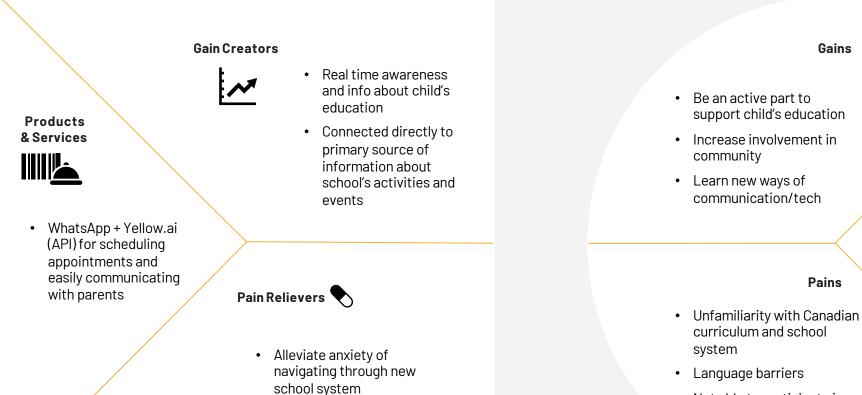
O Pain Relievers

- FAQs will be taken care of through Al
- Teachers and staff can focus on valuable and frequent communication with parents without technical difficulties

Pains

- Receive limited training
- Operations and paperwork take a lot of time
- Exhausted with working online, no work-life balance

Value Proposition Canvas – Parents



Easy and accessible communication w/ school staff and teachers

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• Be an active part to

Gains

Pains

 Increase involvement in community

curriculum and school

• Not able to participate in

childs education process

system

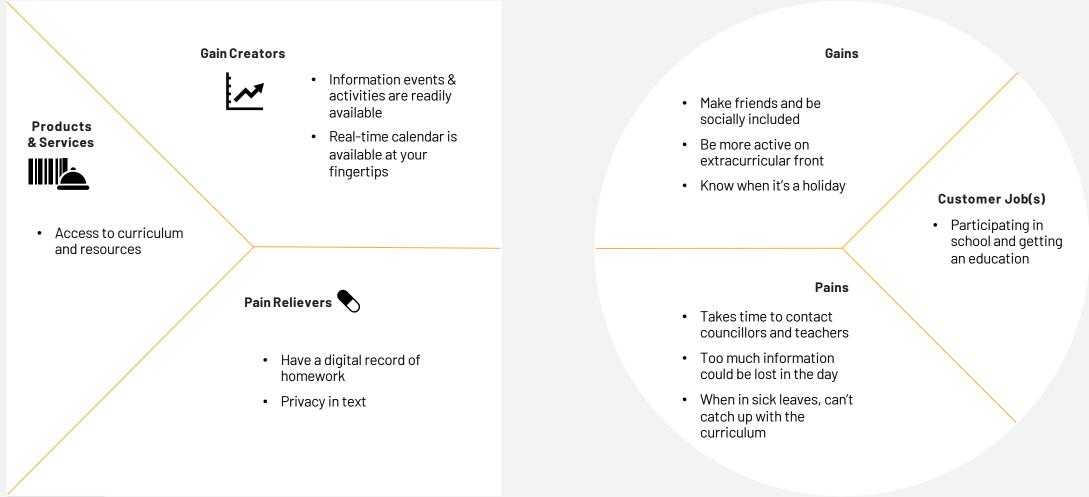
support child's education

• Learn new ways of communication/tech

Customer Job(s)

Ensure that the child is receiving good education and developing through learning

Value Proposition Canvas – Student



Implementation





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Cost Structure







+\$350

Integrate new features Compile usage reports







Revenue Streams

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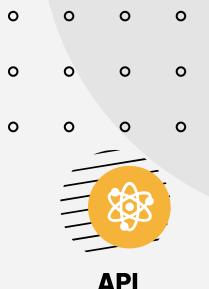
Subscriptions

The District Board and the school would subscribe to the third party API company on a monthly/yearly basis

Brokerage Fees

The third party API company would act as an intermediary to provide additional services and maintenance

Key Partners





School

Principal, vice principals teachers, counselors, and administration **District Board**

Department directors, superintendent, and board of trustees



Outsourced creative and research team

API Provider

Third party company hired on pay-as-go basis

Roadmap

 If DB agrees, provide them with the District Board Package

• Support the DB and coordinate with API company to create custom setup

Step 3

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- Early deployment for piloting 2% of the schools, testing, and revisions
- Marketing campaign and invitation to stakeholders to use the new ICT channel
- Monitor, discuss, and problem solve

• Test API with WhatsApp to by conducting an internal demo

Step 1

- Seek connections with trusted educational influencers and organizations for promotion\
- Approach district board (DB) and pitch the solution

Step 2

- Register a limited set of parents, students, and staff on the WhatsApp number
- Evaluate and tweak the system as needed
- Pitch to DB to implement the same in schools under the board

Step 4

Consistent digital infrastructure

Existing infrastructure from WhatsApp and harness the familiarity of the medium

The solution brings value to parents and schools by allowing

seamless communication, and

can be tailored to the needs of

The partnerships among the key

collaborate with pioneers within

The solution is very affordable

concept has to be tailored for

Al is one of the leading digital

technologies that is utilizes integration of various databases

but the access to such a

stakeholders are high and

the school

the tech world

each school

Desirable & Flexible

Partnerships & Collaborations

Affordable & accessible

High Quality

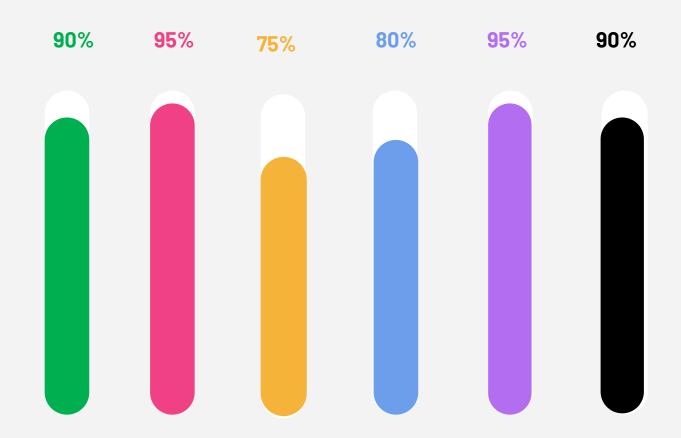
Sustainable/ Circular The solution uses existing capabilities of WhatsApp and Yellow.ai (API) to create a service

Criteria for Success

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Final Thoughts

- 1. We start with targeting the refugee population as our only user group, but the solution has potential to help not only newcomers but also the entire school population. This makes the plan more sustainable in the long run, inclusive to all and desirable for the schools/district to implement.
- 2. We are also aware of the limitations of WhatsApp. Our solution uses the platform; however, the solution model is transferable to any similar messaging tool such as Telegram.
- 3. This is not a stand-alone service, but is integrates many platforms and partners, allowing room for expansion and adaptability.

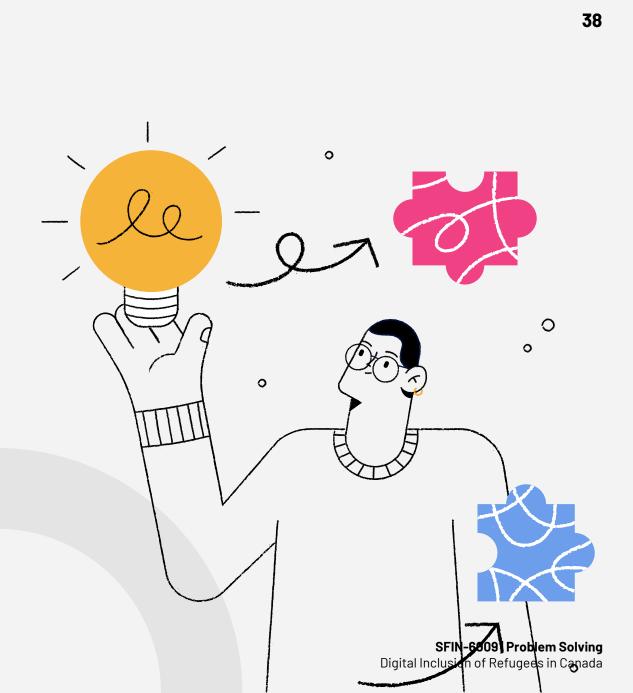


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Thank you!

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Questions?



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